

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66616

DRAFTED Y:NEA/RA:RCSEARING:PD

9/25/73 EXT:20303

NEA/RA/SDSCHIFF

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R 252117Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190743

THE FOLLOWING TEL RECVD FROM TEHRAN SEP 25, 73 TO  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BEIRUT DHAHRAN JIDDA KUWAIT  
AND LONDON IS REPTD.

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L QTEHRAN 6822

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IR

SUBJ: STRIKE CONTINUES IN KHUZISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 6796

SUMMARY. REFINERY EMPLOYEES IN ABADAN AND BANDAR MASHAHR STILL ON  
STRIKE AND REFINERY OPERATIONS ASSURED BY WHITE-COLLAR EMPLOYEES.  
HIGH LEVEL REFINERY OFFICIALS BELIEVE STRIKE PROMPTED BY OUTSIDE  
ORGANIZERS AND FEEL THAT IF STRIKE NOT SETTLED TODAY (WHICH IS  
UNLIKELY), REFINERY WILL EITHER BE SHUT DOWN SEPTEMBER 26 OR  
SECURITY AUTHORITIES WILL BE PERMITTED TO MAKE ARRESTS AND PRE-  
SSURE WORKERS INTO SUBMISSION. SO FAR, GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY  
REFUSING TO GIVE IN TO ANY OF WORKERS' DEMANDS. END SUMMARY.

1. REFINERY EMPLOYEES INCLUDING THOSE IN NON-BASIC OPERATIONS IN  
ABADAN AND BANDAR MASHAHR STILL ON STRIKE. SOME WORKERS REPORTED  
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BACK ON JOB TODAY BUT WHITE-COLLAR EMPLOYEES HAVE TAKEN OVER

REFINERY OPERATIONS WORKING TWO TWELVE-HOUR SHIFTS. STRIKE HAS NOT SPREAD TO OIL FIELDS AND OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT IT TO DO SO.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH HIGH-LEVEL REFINERY OFFICIAL, KHORRAMSHAHR CONOFF REPEATED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO NIOC MANAGING DIRECTOR, EQBAL, QTE IF WORKERS DO NOT GO BACK WE WILL SHUT DOWN REFINERY FOR A MONTH UNQTE. OFFICIAL NOTED HE HAD HEARD SUBSTANCE OF SAME REMARK AND STATED IRANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE DISTURBANCES SUCH AS STRIKES IN SENSITIVE BORDER AREAS. REFINERY NOT SO IMPORTANT TO IRANIAN ECONOMY THAT IT CANNOT BE CLOSED.

3. FOUR TOP-LEVEL REFINERY EXECUTIVES AGREE THAT OUTSIDE ORGANIZERS (READ IRAQIS) PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN STRIKE WHICH THEY REGARD AS TOO WELL-ORCHESTRATED TO BE STRICTLY INTERNAL AFFAIR. ONE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT SUBSTANCE OF EMPLOYEE/MANAGEMENT BARGAINING SESSION REPORTED SAME DAY ON RADIO BAGHDAD. ANOTHER SOURCE IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE THOUGH NONE HAS TAKEN PLACE YET. HE NOTED THAT SECURITY UNITS OFFER LITTLE PROTECTION SINCE UNIT MEMBERS LACK THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO STOP A DETERMINED SABOTEUR KNOWLEDGABLE REFINERY OPERATIONS.

4. OFFICIALS AGREE THAT GOI IS NOT PREPARED TO GIVE WORKERS ANYTHING ABOVE THE NATIONWIDE TEN PER CENT WAGE INCREASE GRANTED BEFORE STRIKE BEGAN. REFINERY MANAGEMENT UNDER PRESSURE FROM NATIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION (SAVAK) AND MILITARY TO PERMIT INTERVENTION NOW. MANAGEMENT FEELS TODAY'S EVENTS CRUCIAL. IF WORKERS NOT BACK ON JOB SEPTEMBER 26 A.M., SAVAK AND MILITARY ARE EXPECTED TO INTERVENE TO BREAK UP STRIKE WITH POSSIBLE VIOLENT RESULTS. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO VIOLENCE, NO ARRESTS, NO DISMISSALS BUT AFTER STRIKE REFINERY OFFICIALS EXPECT SOME ARRESTS AND SOME DISMISSALS WILL TAKE PLACE.

COMMENT: WE REGARD PROTRACTED STRIKE IN SENSITIVE AREA OF OIL OPERATIONS AS OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS MATTER UNDERLINING ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF RISING PRICES TO IRANIAN ECONOMY AND SOCIAL SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH REFINERY PROCESSES ONLY ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF IRAN'S OIL IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING OIL INCOME IS SUCH THAT WE SUSPECT EQBAL'S THREAT TO SHUT DOWN REFINERY LARGELY BLUFF AND THAT SHOULD PEACEFUL SOLUTION FAIL TO MATERIALIZE ACTION AGAINST WORKERS BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES CAN BE EXPECTED.

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UNQTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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